### Amnsements Co-Night.

ACADEMY OF DESIGN—Art Loan Exhibition.

AMERICAN ART GALLERIES—Exhibition.

BIJOU OPERA HOUSE—8—"Orpheus and Eurydice."

CASINO—8—" The Beggar Student."

DALT'S THEATIRE—8:15—"SEVEN-TWENTY-Eight."

GRAND OFERA HOUSE—8—"The Two Orphans."

HAVERLY'S SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS—8—MINSTRELS.

MADISON SQUARE THEATIRE—9:30—"Delmer's Daughters."

NEW PARK THEATRE—8—"The Princess Chuck."

NIBLO'S GARDEN—8—"Excelsior."

STANDARD THEATRE—8—"Extrella."

STANDARD THEATRE—8—"Extrella."

STANDARD THEATRE—8—"Calcideric."

THALLA THEATRE—8—"Cordelia's Aspiration s."

UNION SQUARE THEATRE—8—"Storm Beaten."

WALLACK'S THEATRE—8—"Storm Beaten."

WALLACK'S THEATRE—8—"Storm Beaten."

WALLACK'S THEATRE—8—"Henbard Mansfield.

STR AVENUE THEATRE—8—"Monte Cristo."

14TH STREET THEATRE—8—"Fedora."

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### Business Notices.

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# New York Daily Tribune. FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, DEC. 13.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.-Admiral Courbet, commander of the French forces in Tonquin, has received instructions to seize Bac-Ninh if negotiations with the Chinese fail. \_\_\_\_ A storm passed over Great Britain and Ireland on Tuesday night which damaged a vast amount of property, wrecked many ships and destroyed lives. —— The garrison of Khartoum has been strengthened. = King Alfonso of Spain in his speech to the Cortes will announce an extension of the suffrage and peace with France. There have been several engagements between the Government and insurgents in Hayti.

CONGRESS .- The Senate confirmed several nominations by the President - Mr. Beck's resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information respecting the management of national finances was amended and adopted. Mr. Wilson addressed the Senate in support of his resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution, to secure citizens their rights.

DOMESTIC .- Judge Nixon, of the United States Circuit Court, decided yesterday that the bonds stolen by Alexander D. Hamilton, Treasurer of Trenton, must be paid by that city. === Two large business blocks in St. Paul, Minn., have been burned. == The French workingmen's delegates were refused admittance to large factories in New Haven. = The Salvation Army sang one of their street hymns in court, at New Haven, during their trial for breach of the peace. = Amanda Fluch was before a Justice in New Brunswick for identifiation and afterwards met Coop in jail.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.-The peculiar relations between unbalanced bid contractors and the singular character of Mr. Thompson's inspectors are described in The Tribune to-day. - Professor Sargent, of Harvard, appeared yesterday before the hamber of Commerce Committee on Forests. leneral di Cesnola continued his testimony. The Corporation Counsel gave an opinion on lawful and unlawful bay-windows. = J. B. Billups & Co., cotton commission merchants, failed with ominal liabilities of \$400,000. The Committee f Eighteen held a meeting. Miss Withersporn hot and killed herself at Tarrytown. - Several peliceman were dismissed by the Commissioners suit to recover \$30,000 for the alienation of a

vife's affections has been begun in Brooklyn. fold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (41212 raius), 85.39 cents.

In electing Senator Sabin as its permanent hairman, the Republican National Committee yesterday made a wise choice. He has not been identified in any way with factional disputes and he possesses the energy and executive ability necessary to make a good chairman. In deciding to hold the next Convention in Chicago the Committee reached a satisfactory compromise on conflicting claims. It was at Conventions held in that city that Lincoln and Garfield were nominated; and if a wise selection is made next year there will be no doubt of a repetition of the successful campaigns that followed the previous Conventions held there. The date for holding the Convention, June 3, is probably as good as could be chosen, though it is often ,hot weather in Chicago at that time of the year. It is a matter for regret that the Committee did not adopt the proposition of Mr. Frye for a change in the basis of representation. It met with the general appreval of the Republicans of the North, and its adoption would have added strength to the next Convention. The question was referred to that body by a vote of 25 to 18. Of course the Convention would have power to deal with the subject without regard to the action of the Committee.

There is reason to fear that another one of the cherished rights of the Board of Aldermen is about to be swept away. An injunction has been issued against the erection of certain bay windows authorized by the Board, and the Corporation Counsel has given an opinion that such bay windows are unlawful. If the Aldermen are to be restrained from authorizing

have as regularly passed them over the vetoes If the Courts are now to step in and "muzzle the co-ordinate branch," in the language of one of its members, there will be stirring times ahead.

It is difficult to understand exactly what are the intentions of the French Cabinet on the Tonquin question. Weeks ago it gave out that orders had been issued to attack Bac-Ninh and Sontay. The attack was not made, however. Then it was said that the order had been given to seize those two places on December 5. But that date passed without any military movement. Now the Cabinet has received a vote of confidence in the Chambers, and it is said to have proposed a renewal of negotiations with the Chinese officials. Apparently the Government hesitates to take a step beyond which peace may be impossible. But it is difficult to see how a war is to be avoided without one side or the other receding from the position it has taken. It will be strange if the Mandarins, who were ready to fight with Russia over the province of Sli, back down before a less dangerous foe.

One of the important questions to come before the Legislature at its next session will be that of protecting from destruction the Adirondack forests. The committee of the Chamber of Commerce, which is circulating a memorial ou this subject for presentation to the Legislature, ought to receive the aid of every citizen. It is to be hoped that the committee of the State Senate which investigated the subject last summer will present a practicable measure for adoption by the Legislature. The question is not one of easy solution. A great deal of the forest land is now owned by private persons, and that will have to be acquired in some way for the State in order to save the forests from destruction.

The National Committee of the Union League has undertaken a very difficult task. It seeks to find some way to overcome Bourbonism in the South. That is a problem which has long occupied the attention of the country, and which is no nearer solution now than it was ten years ago. There is one way to check the evil, and that is to elect Republicans in the North. It is no doubt true, as Representative Houk said in the meeting of the Committee yesterday, that "there will not be another fair election until the North convinces the Bourbons that they cannot rule the Government." But recent occurrences in Virginia and Washington show that they are yet far from being convinced that they cannot rule the nation.

The plan for the conduct of the Republican primaries, and for the control of the District and County Committees, as adopted last night by the Committee of Eighteen, is another wise step in the direction of reorganizing the party in this city. The Committee decided not to fix the date of the primaries until all the challenges resulting from the recent enrolment are disposed of. That will give opportunity for a thorough sifting of the charges made against any enrolled voter, and will secure fair primaries. That is the one great advantage in the new plan.

The Republican Senators ought to make no mistake to-day in agreeing upon a candidate for Secretary of the Senate. No person should be chosen who is not in full sympathy with Civil Service Reform and the other principles of the party. It is difficult to understand, under such circumstances, how Mr. George C. Gorham can hope for success.

LIGHT ON A COMMISSIONER'S METHODS. In any investigation which may be made into contract frauds in the Public Works Department, the peculiar circumstances related in today's TRIBUNE should have full weight. If a contractor cannot afford to do a piece of work at a lower price than his bid, how can be afford to become surety on the contract of the man who underbids him? And if there is no contractors' ring, how are the close pecuniary relations existing between competing contractors to be explained? And how is it that a man who does not bid at all is at the same time surety on a large number of different contracts? These are serious questions, the answers to which should be carefully sought by a competent legal tribunal.

There should also be a searching investigation to ascertain whether or not the city is paying for supplies and work not furnished. It has recently been shown before the Assessment Commission that on some contracts made before Mr. Thompson became Commissioner of Public Works large sums were paid for work never done. What guarantoe is there that the same state of affairs does not exist now? Certainly there is nothing in the character of the politicians employed by Mr. Thompson as inspectors to secure the city against frauds of that kind. As shown to-day, one of the inspectors was employed in another city while drawing per diem pay in New-York. There are other and worse instances of this kind that can be given.

How enormous are the losses to the city brough the worse than reckless administration of Mr. Thompson will only be known after a thorough legal investigation. What Controller Green officially said of the Public Works Department in 1876 is particularly applicable now ; Sinecurists and placemen have swelled the pay-rolls; inspectors of public improvements, totally unqualified for their duties, have been employed. Not to waste words, the result has been enormous cost of work to be assessed upon property-owners; fraudulent contracts and a mass of corrupt jobs. Three fourths of the litigation of the city has grown out of the 'irregular transactions of this department. It was organized under the charter of 1870 to give to its then head a preponderance of the political power of the city, and it has never yet been freed from the influences that grew up under his management."

It was not long after that was written when Mr. Thompson became the political power in the Public Works Department; and what his influence has led to we have already shown. The expenditures of the department are much larger now than in 1876, and the loss is correspondingly greater.

EXCUSES THAT DO NOT EXCUSE. Commissioner Thompson puts forth two excuses: 1. That the engineers of the department have no means of estimating the quantities of rock and earth in a proposed excavation, their so-called estimates being nothing more than guesses. 2. That the department has had until lately no authority to reject unbalanced bids, but has been obliged by law to

city invariably loses by the operation. The result is never the other way. This, as Sam Weller said of the up etting of a coach load of voters, is a "hextra-ordinary and wonderful coincidence."

2. That a public officer, sworn to protect the interests of the city, is bound, by law or by any other obligation, to consent to the swindling of the city, we flatly deny. It is apparent from Mr. Thompson's language that he knew what these unbalanced bids meant; he must have known if he was not a fool; and the proposition that the head of a department is required by law to carry out an obvious scheme to defraud is one which we shall not accept without very precise and eminent legal authority. But is there a man of common sense who believes that the Commissioner of Public Works could not have broken up these systematic rascalities at any moment if he had wished to?

What could be do? In the first place, if the law did not authorize him to reject dishonest bids, it was only necessary for him to expose the wrong and ask for a better law. That is what a faithful officer would have done at once; and there is not the least doubt that publicity would have put a stop to the whole thievish system. Mr. Thompson, however, accepted the situation with such cheerfulness that when a change in the law did give him authority to reject unbalanced bids he made no use of it; he says that he did not know of the change until the Corporation Counsel called his attention to it nearly five months later; and even then he went on accepting unbalanced bids just the same, and the fraud is going on prosperously at this moment.

In the next place, it must be observed that the frauds are not committed by the contractors alone, but they begin in the Department of Public Works. The basis of a fraudulent bid is always a fraudulent estimate of quantities. Michael Finn would not have bid the preposterous prices of 35 cents a cubic yard for excavating rock and \$7 90 a cubic yard for digging dirt if an official of the department had not previously made a false estimate, which Finn knew to be false. Collusion in such cases is difficult to prove; but where there is a regular correspondence between enormous miscalculations by the department engineers and enormous profits by the contractors, the inferences are irresistible. It does not appear, however, that Mr. Thompson ever called his subordinates to account, or felt the least concern at their unfitness for their places. It was plain that they were either incompetent or dishonest. What did the Commissioner ever do about it?

A KICKING CANNON,

Referring to Apostle Cannon, of Utah Territory. The vigorous language employed by President Arthur in his late message in reference to the Mormons has hurt his feelings. And the consequence is that he lifts up his voice in passionate protest. We rejoice that it is so. We are glad to see him taken that way. For this is a style of Cannon whose discharge is harmless, but whose recoil is bad-for the man that fires it off.

"Our enemies," exclaimed the Apostle, in his discourse of last Sunday, "hope to divide us and thus overcome us. They have by their laws deprived the leaders of this people of "those rights that belong to us as much as to them. They have sought to humble the elite of this people." This is what is familiarly known as the martyr racket. And we must admit that seldom has it been so impressively played. The greater includes the less, so that if "the elite" of the polygamists are to be humbled, of course your ordinary, every-day polygamist stands no chance at all. "The elite" is a lovely term in any circumstances, but as here used it is irresistible. It gives one a new idea of the juicy resources of the French language, besides furnishing a fresh synonym for leading reprobates. The gentry to whom are able to supply a basis of real capital to their tion known as the Mormon Church. They are the elite in the sense that Pecksniff or Dick Turpin was.

Further on in his discourse Cannon complains building up this Territory have been deposed." The reference here is chiefly to Cannon. He has long been a foremost Mormon leader. Indeed, ever since the death of that quintessence of the elite, Brigham Young, he has been known as "the brains of the Mormon Church." Sent to Congress as a delegate from Utah in 1873, he remained there as such until last year when he was deposed from office. He made a rigorous fight for his seat, in the course of which he defended himself and his fellowpolygamists as being on "the plane of Abraham and the patriarchs." There is ground for suspecting that his temper has not improved since his involuntary retirement. That he and his fellow-leaders have done much to premote the building up of the Territory," so far as its material prosperity is concerned, may be admitted. But their chief work has been the building up, in defiance of law and decency, of the Mormon Church.

Cannon would better not fire himself off again. Nothing he can say can make the case of the Mormons look better. That he can make it look worse is quite possible.

SHIPPING LAW REFORM. Several bills have been introduced at Washington for reform of the shipping laws, but none of them appears to contain any provisions for the better protection of the merchant seaman from brutality or for the improvement of the calibre of merchant captains and mates. Changes are suggested in some of these bills which seem calculated to facilitate the discharge of seamen in foreign ports, and strip from them the protection afforded by their claim to three months' wages. But though the savagery and cruelty with which too many American vessels are run has become a national reproach, we look in vain for any legislation aiming at the extirpation of this crying abuse. It is plain that one cause of the brutality on board so many American ships is the bad character of the men who are appointed officers. And there can be no doubt that one explanation of this is the ease with which such positions can be assumed in this country. If every merchant master and mate were compelled to pass Government examinations and hold Government certificates, as in England, a better class of men would soon go into these employments. There would then, moreover, be a means both of supervision and punishment which would end to check the disposition toward cruelty low so freely indulged.

The Government, that is to say Congress, has long neglected the interests of the merchant eaman. No class of men in the country are so defenceless, or are habitually more preyed upon. Exposed at sea to the brutality of every

bases upon it a grossly unbalanced bid, and the the rumseller, and it is to be feared even sometimes the shipping agent who carries the commission of the United States, are his enemies, and in their differing ways fleece and victimize him. His advance notes are almost always appropriated by some of the gang of thieves who surround him, and who make the most transparent pretence of giving him consideration. In short Poor Jack is treated worse than any simple and for the most part ignorant, and because he does not know or care anything about politics, he finds nobody to take up his cause and demand justice and fair play for him.

It is time this was remedied. We shall never regain our lost position on the ocean until we have officers and crews as well as ships. At present, if we could instantly put a thousand merchant ships affoat, we should have to go abroad to man them. Outrage and neglect have driven our few remaining sailor-men away from the flag they love, and have fastened upon that flag an evil reputation among all sea-going people. All this, however, can be changed, and it is in the power of Congress to change it. Protect the sailor at sea. Give him manly and merciful officers. Guard him from the parasites that feed upon him in every port. Do not leave him without help abroad. Do not let owners or captains impose upon him. Do away with the advance-note system. Establish Government examinations for masters and mates. And while the general interests of the shipowners will be materially advanced, the character of the merchant service will be raised, and the American seaman will again be what he was formerly,—the pride of his country.

"CHEEK" AS CAPITAL.

The political economists exercise their wits

strenuously upon definitions of capital. It is

the surplus earnings of labor, they say. It is this, that and the other. But they invariably omit from their reasoning that important factor which has been aptly termed "the personal equation." For the Professors of the Dismal Science it is perhaps necessary to postulate absolute uniformity of effects; but if this is indispensable to the formulation of a consistent theory of wealth and its distribution, it none the less prevents political economy from accounting for or even taking due cognizance of some of the most striking and remarkable facts. As an example of this defect in the alleged science, take the late failure of the speculator, Morris Ranger. Here was a man who succeeded in amassing liabilities to the amount of \$4,000,-000, yet whose assets were only \$45,000. Now it is perfectly evident that the capital of Morris Ranger did not consist of his surplus earnings; did not represent the results of labor in any form; was not the increment of land value; in fact cannot be put in any of the orthodox economic categories. What, then, did the great speculator's capital consist in? To put it himself, in effect, may be said to have been represented by his four millions of debts. The confidence of others in him is represented, on the other hand, by his forty-five thousand dollars of assets. It is said sometimes, sneeringly, that if we could buy such-an-one at the public valuation of him, and sell him at his own valuation, there would be much profit in the transaction. Just so with Morris Ranger. And this case is only typical. The extent to which "cheek" operates as capital is scarcely suspected, probably. "Check" is to credit what credit is to ordinary commercial transactions. Its use involves a refinement of the process through which checks have in these days superseded the exchange of actual money in business. There are plenty of Rangers all over the world. They utilize their nerve, their experience, their audacity. They create what is for most purposes as good as capital in this way. Very often they are successful, and then they Cannon refers when he speaks of the elite are the operations. But the boldest of such speculators Mormon "apostles" and cognate chiefs of what- at times are tempted or driven into taking desgenerals who separate themselves from their base of communication, as Sherman did, and who proceed "in the air," as the French strategists say. They are then operating, not upon that "the men that have labored for years in capital, but upon "cheek," and should they make mistakes they are liable to such failure as has befallen Morris Ranger. The men who make these dangerous ventures are, however, invariably natural gamblers. Their operations do not resemble those of the men who have acquired great capital by slow, successive work. They take a pleasure in the very risk of the operations, distinct from their interest in the results. They delight in the fertility of their own resources, and in the coolness which enables them to put at stake hundreds of thousands, or millions, which they do not possess, Such coolness, indeed, may easily be factitious, for he who merely stakes other people's money needs more absence of scruple than presence of

> As to the honesty of this kind of speculation there is no room for doubt. It is only the magnitude of the operation that misleads the publie. If a poor clerk or mechanic tried the same game and failed, every body would say and see that he was unprincipled. But when a man fails for four millions upon a capital of fortyfive thousand dollars, there is a disposition to admire his audacity, and rather to defer to him as a genius. The speculator who trades on "check" is in fact one in whom those tendencies are developed which lead to crime. There is a want of balance, a greed without restraint, a contempt for ethical principles, such as may be looked for among professional criminals. Yet it is certain that the employment of "cheek" as capital in the Morris Ranger way is quite common, and that economists ought to devise some method of taking this class of cases into account. Of course a large proportion of the values created by such speculators is fictitions, but men may be ruined by tampering even with fictitious values, and in all such cases the one who has least to lose is the bold speculator whose capital is "in his mind."

> In the present state of public morals there against the Morris Rangers. No doubt in the long run they come to grief, but meantime many innocent persons come to grief also through them. A time may come when criminality will be less relative and comparative than now, but until such a millennial period arrives the world will probably have no better protection against these adventurers than its own judgment constitutes.

> > CHINESE TRUTHFULNESS.

The Herald, speaking of recent Chinese runors, observes that "one of the national characteristics of that people is a want of capacity to distinguish between truth and falsehood." The same kind of statement has been often made before, but it is not true. There is no nation upon earth of which such a statement could be and other like street obstructions. And although the Mayors have regularly vetoed such resolutions, because illegal, the Afdermen such resolutions and other like street obstructions. And such resolutions are constructed as a saying in the such resolutions, because illegal, the Afdermen such resolutions are constructed as a saying in the such resolutions and consciencedess boarding-house keeper, the slop-clothing seller, and the such as sever obtained such a knowledge of the construction. There's not the although the sweep-such resolutions, because illegal, the Afdermen such resolutions and consciencedess set of harpies that ever lived by rapine. The boarding-house keeper, the slop-clothing seller, and the such as ever obtained such a knowledge of the Chinese character as would justify the sweep-such resolutions are constructed it and every small as a proposed its injustice in the most conclusive and every small as a proposed its injustice in the most conclusive and every small as a proposed its injustice in the most conclusive and every small as a proposed its injustice in the most conclusive and every small as a proposed its injustice in the most conclusive and every small as a proposed its injustice in the most conclusive and every small as a proposed its injustice in the most conclusive and every small as a proposed its injustice in the most conclusive and the such as conversation where some contractor. There's not be altered it and every small as a proposed its injustice in the most conclusive and the such as the first place, no Western nation has every obtained such as knowledge of the conversation with some German journal state. From the Commercial Asteries.

In the first place, no Western nation has every obtained such as knowledge of the most representation. Every ald possible should be extended to it.

King Alfonso is represented its and conversation with some

place, the common notions of the Chinese character are derived from contact with the Chinese who have come to this country; and nineteentwentieths of them are of the lowest social and intellectual grade, come from one town and province, and are in no true sense representative. In the third place, all who have had dealings with educated Chinese, and especially with the mercantile class, know that they are redog both affoat and ashore, and because he is markably apright and truthful. In San Francisco, where there are many wealthy Chinese merchants, the credit of no class stands higher. Bankers solicit their custom because they are so scrupulously honorable, and their word is, in nine cases out of ten, better worth having than that of the majority of white traders. Again the literature of China, which is extensive, though only a very small portion of it has been explored hitherto, abounds in inculcations of reverence for the truth. From Confucius onward all the philosophers and teachers of the Middle Kingdom have exhibited the strongest regard for truth and the strongest hatred for falsehood. Columns could be filled with Chinese apothegms, proverbs and didactic sentences breathing the loftiest sentiments in this connec-

As to Chinese diplomacy, it is like all diplomacy, save that it is more subtle than that of the West. But if, which is not the case, it were far more insincere and full of duplicity than that of other powers, it might be answered to this charge that weakness has always been compelled to defend itself by cunning. When the lion's skin is too short, that of the fox must eke it out. That is not only time-honored diplomatic doctrine, but human nature. All subjugated people have recourse to deceit. It is too often their sole protection. The Chinese in America have been defenceless strangers in a hostile country, and there need be no wonder, therefore, if they have tried to protect themselves sometimes by "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain." But the habit of branding a nation of four hundred millions with "incapacity to distinguish between truth and falsehood" is certainly not warranted by the facts, and it is a oose and reckless way of talking which oughtto be abandoned.

The text of the English shipowners' agreement with M. de Lesseps shows that while they have been accorded seven additional seats in the Board of Directors of the Sucz Canal, the membership has been enlarged from twenty-four to thirty-two. The English representation has been increased from a minority of three to a minority of ten, but this concession is of questionable value since the French directors will have a clear majority of twenty-two votes n the enlarged board, whereas their present majority is twenty-one. While the English shipowners have not materially improved their position in regard to the management of the canal, they have secured the abolition of pilotage and large and speedy reductions of tells. The monopoly claimed by M. de Lesseps is tacitly conceded notwithstanding curtly and clearly, if somewhat vulgarly, his the outery raised against it during the summer in capital consisted in "cheek." His confidence in and out of Parliment. The committee of shipowners venture to express the opinion that the shares held by the British Government should be made to carry adequate voting power at the meeting of the shareholders, but the proposition is not included in the

> The Albany Argus, in attempting to defend Mr. Thompson, says: "During the past year eight or nine Grand Juries have investigated the affairs of the Department of Public Works and found nothing reflecting in the slightest degree upon the udgment or integrity of Commissioner Thompson." This is one of the finest examples of newspaper in accuracy that we have noted of late. Eight or nine Grand Juries, indeed! The truth is that not one Grand Jury has investigated the Public Works Department since Mr. Thompson became the Commis sioner three years ago.

The banquet given to Mr. Parnell in Dublin Tuesday evening is one of the most impressive episodes of the history of Irish agitation. He entered upon the campaign of agrarian and political warfare with a modest fortune and a small landed estate. The exclusive attention which he has given to public questions has not allowed him sufficient leisure for protecting his private interests, and his affairs are ever name who uphold the pestiferous institu- perate chances. At such times they are like involved in pecuniary embarrassments of the gravest character. For many months Irishmen at home, in the United States and in Australia have been raising a fund to be presented to him in acknowledgment of his services to the National cause. Priests and prelates of the Roman Church have denounced the subscriptions, but the money has been steadily accumulating until the fund now exceeds \$190,000. Finally it was presented to the Agitator at a great gathering of representative Irishmen. It was a supreme act of National gratitude and patriotic confidence. Mr. Parnell has made many mistakes; he has dallied with criminal agencies and hesitated to denounce lawlessness and assassination, and in other respects has fallen below the stature of some of the great figures of Irish history; but he has won the hearts of his countrymen the world over. They believe in him and attest their faith by works.

> The operators engaged in the military telegraph service during the War of the Rebellion are about to make an application to Congress for rank and pensions. There may be some question about the mititary grades to which telegraph operators wish themselves promoted twenty years after the fight. but none at all about their gallant service and fullest claim to recognition in the pension list.

M. Ferry's speech in defence of the Tonquin Credits bill was circuitous in its logic and downright dishonest in many parts, but it served the purpose and secured for the Government a working majority. Having received two votes of confidence, the Ministry can now give orders for the opening of hostilities and the chatter of diplomacy Pekin and Paris will come to an end. Naturally they will entertain high hopes of closing the campaign speedily with some great stroke of good for tune. The Republic no less than the Empire has a blind confidence in its luck, and strives to command success by sheer audacity and recklessness. There could be no stronger proof of the hap-hazard policy pursued by the Government than the small sum voted by the Deputies for the prosecution of the war. If the credits asked for are insufficient, so is the military and naval force in Tonquin. Indeed, the inadequacy of that force can only be explained on the hypothesis that the Ministry be lieved, not what Premier Ferry said on Monday, but what M. Challemel-Lacour said last May, namely, that the Chinese would not fight under any circumstances. If the Ministry have not eneems no effectual way of protecting society tertained illusions, but have resolutely faced the contingency of a campaign with China, they have been guilty of criminal folly in making such scanty preparations for a great conflict.

There ought to be no hesitation on the part of the Board of Estimate in making an appropriation for accountants to be employed by the Grand Jury It has been suggested that the present Commis sioners of Accounts should be intrusted with the work. In that he is greatly mistaken. If the Commissioners of Accounts had done their duty there would be less need of the Grand Jury undertaking an investigation. At least one of the Commission ers has been examining the city departments for years, and we have yet to learn of the first exposure of fraud that he has made. After someone else has made the first discovery then the Commissioners of Accounts are ready to take up the work And then they have shown a disposition to publish their reports in defiance of the Mayor. That

that "the Spanish soldiers are unequalled in at tacking, but cannot be restrained in reserve posttions." If this is so the Spanish soldiers have improved very much of late, for when last they did any serious fighting, which was in the Peninsular War, they certainly did not win much renown for their enthusiasm in anything but retreat. At that time it was difficult to persuade them to face the French, and though it is true that they were badly officered, their want of subordination and discipline appears to have been by no means a temporary or passing defect. Since then there has been plenty of civil war in Spain, but the Spanish soldiers, though frequently displaying gallantry, and sometimes even ferocity, have not, so far as the rest of the world knows, achieved anything which can justify the statement that they are "unequalled in attack." No doubt, however, King Alfonso is in a measure bound to give his troops the best character at his disposal.\_

### PERSONAL.

Ex-Governor Thomas A. Hendricks, accompanied by his wife, his nephew William Morgan and wife and Judge Rand of Indianapolis, sailed for Europe yesterday on the steamship Werra. The party wiil make only a brief sojourn in England and will then visit France, Italy and Spain. They expect to return some time in February next.

Mr. W. B. Goldberg, father of Mile, Amelie Goldberg-Brillanti, the prima donna who is meeting with such success in Europe, has purchased a site for a residence in Milwankee and will make that city his home. His daughter, who is now twenty-three years of age, will soon return to this country and sing probably under her father's management.

The Rev. Dr. Henry M. Scudder, of Chicago (recently of Brooklyn), having been criticised by an anonymous correspondent for admitting Mr. Mozoomdar to his pulpit one Sunday evening, has made a detailed reply in The Inter-Ocean. He vigorously upholds the right of Mr. Mozoomdar and his co-religionists to be called Christians, and that of the Brahmo-Somaj to be considered, in faith and practice, a Christian church. Dr. Scudder, it will be remembered, was born in India, and was for much of his life a missionary there; so that in this matter none knows better than he the things whereof he speaks.

"Mrs. Carlisle was present," writes a Philadelphia Press correspondent, " to see her husband assume his new dignities, and sat with several other Kentucky ladies on the front seat of the gallery reserved for members' families, which for several years past has been on the Democratic side. Her mitials are the same as her husband's; her full name, Jane Goodson Carlisle. As the daughter of Major Goodson, of Covington, she was one of the belles of Kentucky, and 'rich enough to marry where her heart inclined.' She is an elegant woman, with tall and supple figure, fair and wavy brown with tall and supple figure, fair and way brewn hair, blue eyes, and a clear, well-modulated voice, she talks well, and has as much of that indefinable quality called 'presence' as any lady one neets here, and much graciousness with it. She has been a favorite in her own right during the four years her husband has been in Congress, and her Wednesday receptions at the Riggs House, which she has decided not to begin till January, are sure to be among the leading attractions of the winter."

"Mr. Cable's career as a platform reader of his own works began," says The Boston Gazette, " almost before he knew it. He had never cherished an ambition in that direction, and he would probably never have entered upon it but for the entreaties of a coterie of his admirers. In the ourse of a brief conversation, the other evening. he told the writer how it all came about. He was he told the writer how it all came about. He was delivering a course of six lectures on Liberation at the Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, last spring, and while delivering these he had occasion to dwell on Creole history. In order to illustrate his teachings he read brief extracts from three of his books, and his success as an interpreter of Creole dialect was so marked and instantaneous that he was asked to give a second lecture, to be devoted chiefly from readings from his own works. This Mr. Cable reluctantly consented to do, and he thus began a career that promises to bring him quite as much pecuniary gain as his writings, to say nothing of the added pleasure which his readings afford."

The Johns Hopkins University received on Sua-

The Johns Hopkins University received on Sunday, says The Baltimore Day, a dispatch from Professor Cayley, of the University of Carabridge, England, announcing that Professor Sylvester has been elected Savilian Professor of Mathematics in the University of Oxford. The election was held on Wednesday last. It is understood that he accepts the appointment, and will henceforth be enrolled as a professor emeritus on the staff of Johns Hopkins. A farewell assembly will be held in his honor at an early day in the Hopkins Library. During his residence in Baltimore Professor Sylvester has given an extraordinary impulse to the study of mathematics, having taught a number of pupils whose services have been sought for at Harvard in the East and in the University of California in the West, and at many University of California in the West, and at many intermediate points. Among them are Story, Craig and Franklin, now in Johns Hopkins; Marston, of Baltimore; Gore, lately in the University of Virginia and now in the University of North Carolina; Halsted, at Princeton; Mitcheil, at Marietta; Ely, at Buchtel, Ohio; Stringham, in the University of California; Van Velzer, in the University of Wisconsin; Prentiss, of The United States Nautical Almanae, and Durfee, Just appointed to Hobart College.

ITHACA, N. Y., Dec. 12.-President White gave his annual talk to the students of Cornell University to-day. He left Ithaca shortly afterward for New-York, where he will attend the Alumni ban-quet of that university.

## GENERAL NOTES.

Mr. Whiteley, of London, the universal purveyor, who will furnish a customer with anything under heaven that he may desire, has recently added the publishing trade to his innumerable departments and will presently offer to the world a new book on which Colonel Burnaby is now hard at work.

The State Librarian of Virginia, Colonel Sherwin McRae, after studying for a decade the coat-ofarms of the Old Dominion, has produced a new device arms of the Oid Dominion has produced a new device which will be recommended for official adoption. The design represents Virtus standing with one foot on the dead body of a tyrant, with the chains of subjection broken. The sword is sheathed and the figure is clothed in the garb of a Roman citizen instead of in armor.

The New-York State Fish Commission is now ready to receive applications from residents of this State who desire to stock public waters with salmon trout, brook trout, California trout, black bass, Oswego bass, rock bass, yellow perch or bullheads. Applicants are requested to designate and describe the water which they wish to stock. All applications must be made before March 1, 1884, and should be addressed to Mr. Seth Green, Rochester.

Russian papers are discussing with much conern the rapid destruction of the forests. The beautiful oak forests are becoming extinct; only the borders of the celebrated chestnut woods of Vassilgoursk, which date from the time of Peter the Great, now exist; the forests which once reached from the banks of the Volga and the Don far into the steppes toward the Ural Mountains have been destroyed, and in many central provinces wood had become so expensive that large consumers are consider-ing the importation of coal or the use of petroleum.

The march of improvement has seldom enountered a greater obstacle than Aunt Mary Jane, of This aged negress is not obstinate but unwieldy. Day and night for years she had sat at the window of a decaying house on the east side of Seventh st., cating, sleeping and sewing carpet rags at seventh st., eating, seeping and seving cape to inclination prompted. But at last the owner of the ionse decided to convert it into a store, and Aunt Mary Jane had to go. She was too large to be earried through the door of her room, and so she was transferred to a familiary van through the window at which she had so long sat helpless. A regiment of stalwart neighbors safely accomplished the ardinous task while an array of speciators applicated its progress and completion.

The plans for the palace which Mr. Flood is about to erect on " Nob Hill," San Francisco, are so far perfected that some of the contracts have been given out. The material throughout is to be brown stone, quarried and dressed in Connecticut. " The front of the dwelling." says The Chronicle, " is to be but two stories in height. the lower Dorie and the upper Ionic, both modified by Roman suggestions of ornamentation. The building will form a parallelogram 107x127 feet in size, the only break in the even lines of the four walls being a portion and a square central tower, containing the vestibule in its base at the front and a similar portice extended into a porteccher in the rear. The front and rear portice will be alike. Both will be supported by fourteen columns purely Doric, carved out of single stones and supporting a balcony of corresponding design, faced with a heavy balustrade, the piers of which will be capped with vases.

## WHAT MR. OLNEY MAY FEAR.